

Michigan Bovine TB Eradication Project
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**Minnesota Eases
Restrictions on Michigan
Cattle**

The Minnesota Board of Animal Health recently changed its policy on the importation of ruminant animals, effectively reopening trade to cattle from Michigan's bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Modified Accredited Advanced Upper Peninsula (UP) zone and the Modified Accredited Advanced zone of the Lower Peninsula, according to the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) State Veterinarian Steven Halstead.

The policy requirements applying to the Modified Accredited zone of Michigan's Northern Lower Peninsula continue unchanged.

State checkpoint established at Mackinac Bridge

The Mackinac Bridge is now a state checkpoint for firewood carrying the Emerald Ash Borer and for livestock to stop the potential movement of bovine Tuberculosis into the Upper Peninsula (U.P.).

Part of the federal requirement to gain TB free status for the U. P. is an accurate monitoring and surveillance system of animals that come across the bridge.

All livestock producers and haulers must have the proper paperwork with them when they cross into the U.P. and all animals must have the proper identifica-

Wyant, Outstanding Public Servant

Dan Wyant, Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), stepped down on July 29, 2005 from the post he held for nine years. He was appointed to the position by the Michigan Commission of Agriculture in October of 1996.

Wyant accepted a position as President and Chief Operating Officer of the Edward Lowe Foundation, a private operating foundation that assists entrepreneurs. The foundation is located on 2,500 acres of rural farmland in Cassopolis, Michigan.

"Dan Wyant is an outstanding public servant who has distinguished himself during his tenure as Michigan's Director of Agriculture. He has been a leader on issues critical to Michigan's second largest industry and has been steadfast in promoting and protecting the food, agricultural, environmental and economic interests of the people of Michigan," said Michigan Governor Jennifer M. Granholm

Wyant said that one of the highlights of his MDA career included attaining split-state status for bovine Tuberculosis, thus saving the state's livestock industry millions of dollars in testing costs and ensuring markets for Michigan-raised cattle.

tion tags. Those that do not have the proper paperwork will be required to turn around.

Since the bovine TB eradication project began, MDA has tested over 17,000 farms and one million cattle. There have been 33 reported cattle herds with at least one TB positive animal found on each. No cases have been reported in the U.P., nor in the lower half of the Lower Peninsula (see map on page 2 for detailed information). There were no TB-positive cattle herds found anywhere in the state in the last testing season.

Information on the Web . . .
www.Michigan.gov/bovineTB

Bovine Tuberculosis UPDATE

Michigan



Michigan Department of Agriculture • Michigan Department of Natural Resources • Michigan Department of Community Health

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Progress Report

*by Bridget Patrick, Bovine TB
Eradication Coordinator*

Eradication of bovine TB from the white-tailed deer herd and cattle is important for the economic vitality of Michigan and the bovine TB project partners have some great news to share.

It is a privilege to announce that the DNR did not find any cases of TB in yearling white-tailed deer last year, an indicator that spread of this disease is declining. In addition, no cases of TB in cattle were found in the last yearly cycle of testing.

We need to recognize the hard work and diligence of Michigan's hunters and livestock producers in getting to this point. Both research and statistics validate the DNR and MDA disease eradication efforts.

And the best news of all . . . there's light at the end of the tunnel. The project partners met with national USDA tuberculosis personnel in Washington DC to discuss a timeline for TB Free status. With continued commitment to the program, and some new initiatives, there was agreement that we could move quickly with regaining TB Free status in the Upper Peninsula, and improved status in areas of the Lower Peninsula will soon follow.

This good news doesn't mean we don't need to be diligent in our efforts. Experience in New Zealand, Ireland and South Africa shows that when there was measured success in TB control, support for the programs became lax and TB resurfaced. It has been close to impossible for these countries to regain control.
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New Agriculture Director Named

The Michigan Commission of Agriculture appointed Mitch Irwin as Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) by a unanimous decision. Irwin replaces Dan Wyant who announced his resignation, effective July 29, 2005.

Irwin, of East Lansing, was the former Director of the Michigan Department of Management and Budget (DMB). Prior to joining DMB, Irwin served in the Michigan Senate from 1979 to 1991, including a stint as Democratic Floor Leader from 1986 to 1990. He represented the eastern Upper Peninsula and northern lower Michigan.

Irwin was also on the Economic Development Corporation of Chippewa County and the Eastern U.P. Regional Planning and Development Commission.

Irwin grew up on a small farm in Michigan's rural Upper Peninsula where he gained experience farming beef cattle, hay and horses. He was active in 4-H and continues to raise and breed horses today.

Irwin, age 52, maintains residences in East Lansing and Sault Ste. Marie and is married to Cynthia. He is a member of the Michigan 4-H Board of Trustees and the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame Board of Trustees.

What is Bovine Tuberculosis?

Bovine TB is a serious zoonotic bacterial disease that primarily affects the lungs and sometimes the digestive tract of a variety of animals, including cattle, goats, deer, and elk. It can be passed to humans, but is treatable in humans with a 9-to-12 month regimen of antibiotics.

The Bovine TB Eradication Project

The state's Bovine TB Eradication Project is a multi-agency team of experts from the Michigan Departments of Agriculture, Community Health, and Natural Resources; Michigan State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We continue to work collaboratively with input from the agriculture, wildlife and tourism industries, as well as local communities, to eradicate the disease from Michigan.

Study Shows Progress Made in Battle to Eradicate Bovine TB

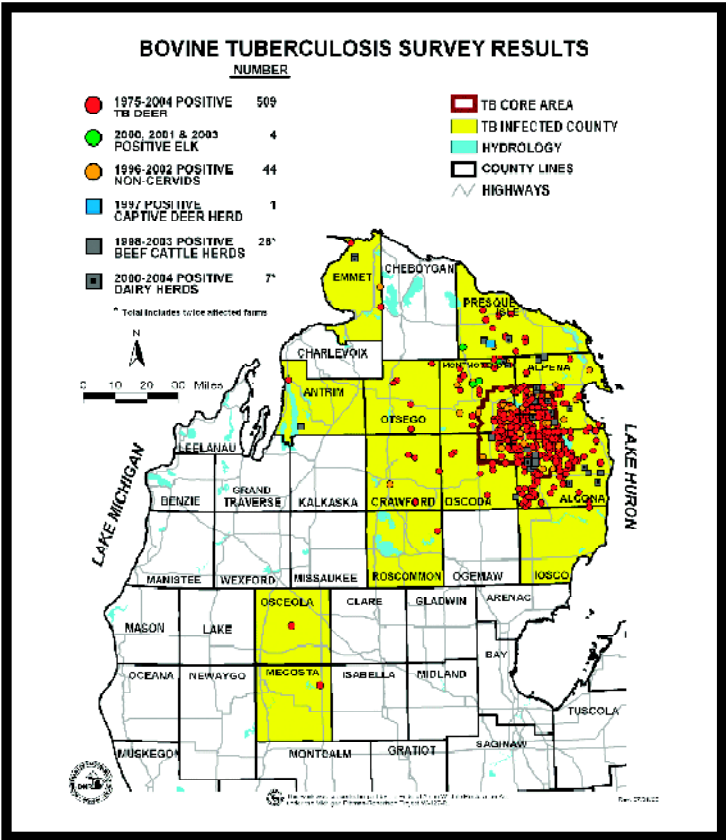
Testing in 2004 on white-tailed deer shows that much progress toward eradication of bovine TB in the wildlife population has been made, according to a Michigan Department of Natural Resources study.

Of 15,127 white-tailed deer tested in 2004, 28 animals turned up bovine TB-positive. In Deer Management Unit (DMU) 452 in northeastern Lower Michigan, the hardest hit area for bovine TB, the prevalence for the disease was 1.7 percent, a decrease of 65 percent since 1995, when the disease was first detected in that area.

“While it is too early to claim a victory against bovine TB, we are very encouraged by the 2004 test results,” said Dr. Stephen Schmitt, wildlife veterinarian-in-charge at the DNR’s Wildlife Disease Laboratory. “Our intervention strategies are working, and we need to stay the course. We also are looking for new intervention methods that will help us further reduce the disease rate in deer. These strategies also should work well for hunters and landowners.”

Currently, the strategies for eradication of the disease have centered on reducing the deer population densities through hunting and reducing deer congregation by restricting or eliminating bait and feed. New strategies, though not intended to replace the existing strategies, would involve live-trapping and TB testing of wild deer and the removal of infected animals.

In 2004, the DNR also worked on developing a more accurate blood test for bovine TB. The pilot program involved hunters in DMU 452 who collected blood samples from deer harvested in the area. The hunters submitted blood samples and deer heads to a deer check station. The lymph nodes from the deer heads were cultured for TB, and the



results were compared to four different TB tests on the blood. One TB test appeared promising, Schmitt said, and could be performed in the field with results ready in less than 15 minutes. In 2005, the DNR will continue TB surveillance in DMU 452 and northeastern Michigan and focus on a collaborative effort with federal and private scientists to develop an accurate TB blood test and an effective TB vaccine.

Bovine TB Strain In Michigan Hunter: Hunters Reminded To Wear Gloves When Cleaning Game

State and local health officials confirmed a strain of bovine Tuberculosis (TB) in a hunter who was injured while field dressing a white-tailed deer during the past hunting season.

The deer, taken from Alcona County in October 2004, had physical signs of bovine TB in its chest, said Dianna Schafer, Public Health Officer for District Health Department No. 2. While field dressing the deer, the hunter poked himself on the hand. Upon seeking medical attention, physicians ran tests for bovine TB, which were confirmed at the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) laboratory in Lansing.

“This appearance of bovine TB in a human underscores the human health risk of the disease in free-ranging deer,” said Janet Olszewski, MDCH Director. “People should not consume wild animals that appear or are confirmed to be sick, regardless of the circumstance.”

Dr. Dean Sienko, acting state Chief Medical Executive, said the method of infection is rare. The hunter, now on a typical course of antibiotics for treatment of bovine TB, is expected to make a full recovery.

“This unique occurrence of bovine TB strengthens the message the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has consistently articulated – hunters should take precautions and wear gloves when field dressing deer, washing their hands afterward,” said DNR Director Rebecca Humphries.

Since 1996, information to help hunters identify TB in deer and protect themselves from infection has been published yearly in the DNR Hunting and Trapping Guide. Hunters who harvest deer that have suspicious physical signs continue to be advised to bring the carcass to the nearest DNR field office for examination and a replacement kill tag.

Sienko also urged individuals that think they may have been exposed to bovine TB, either through harvesting a confirmed TB-infected deer or through the confirmation of a TB-positive livestock operation, to request a tuberculosis skin test (TST) from their primary health-care provider.

NRC Approves Disease Control Replacement Tags

Hunters who kill elk or white-tailed deer that test positive for bovine tuberculosis (TB) will be offered a replacement kill tag this hunting season following action taken in July by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC).

The Commission had issued an interim order for the 2004 hunting season, and the July 2005 action makes the issuing of these permits a permanent order for deer and elk that test positive for TB.

“Hunters are critical partners in our efforts to monitor and contain the spread of wildlife disease,” said NRC Chair Keith Charters. “The replacement kill tags will offer hunters who voluntarily bring a suspect carcass to a Department of Natural Resources check station the chance to take another deer or elk.”

Under the order, when a hunter presents a deer or elk carcass that has visible TB lesions to a DNR check station, a replacement kill tag will be issued so the hunter may take another deer or elk in the specific management unit. Bovine TB-positive carcasses will be collected and burned as a human and wildlife health precaution.

“The ongoing cooperation of hunters is appreciated as we continue to fight TB,” said DNR Director Rebecca Humphries. “This new order is a way to encourage hunters to voluntarily submit their deer head for TB testing. Without this, infected carcasses may be left in the field, further jeopardizing our deer herd.”

For additional information please contact: Mary Dettloff at 517-335-3014.

Bovine TB Education Campaign Underway

In an effort to encourage support for program successes, the Bovine TB Eradication Project partners are undertaking a federally funded education campaign.

As the months progress expect to see and hear public service announcements, as well as newspaper and magazine advertising that emphasize the importance of continued support of the disease eradication efforts from Michigan’s hunters, wildlife enthusiasts, business owners and livestock producers.

Bovine TB stakeholders are the disease eradication program, government is merely the vehicle to get the job done. The goals are a healthy deer herd and a healthy cattle industry, which equal a vibrant economy.



New Bovine Tuberculosis UMR Released by USDA

As of January 1, 2005, a new Bovine TB Uniform Methods and Rules (UMR) is in effect for the United States. A copy of the new UMR for the eradication of bovine TB can be found on the Emerging Diseases Website.

A new Cervid Tuberculosis UMR is being written. Until it is released, the cervid regulations outlined in the 1999 Bovine TB UMR are in effect.